

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 for having insufficient antecedent basis. Claim 3 has been amended to clarify a discrepancy between “a transfer line,” recited in claim 1, and “a plurality of transfer lines,” recited in claim 3. The Examiner states that claim 5 lacks sufficient antecedent basis for the term “storage elements.” Claim 5 recites, in part, “further including a plurality of storage elements.” Claim 5 does not have an antecedent problem.

Claims 1-3, 5, 28, 29 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,243,134 to Beiley et al. (Beiley). Claim 1 has been amended to recite, in part, “a plurality of transfer transistors, each transfer transistor having a first terminal directly connected to said second terminal of said photosensor.” As illustrated in Figure 5, Beiley clearly does not disclose a plurality of transfer transistors, each transfer transistor having a first terminal directly connected to said second terminal of said photosensor. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in Figures 5-10. Claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 2-3 and 5 depend from claim 1 and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite, in part, “a plurality of transfer transistors, each transfer transistor having a first terminal directly connected to a separate one of said plurality of second terminals of said photosensor.” Although claim 28 differs from claim

1, the same reasoning applied to claim 1 applies to claim 28. Support for the amendment to claim 28 can be found in Figures 5-10. Claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 29 and 32 depend from claim 28 and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 55-57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,962,844 to Merrill et al. (Merrill). Claim 55 has been amended to recite, in part, "outputting charge from any of the plurality of storage nodes which is not having charge transferred from said photosensor, wherein said outputting of charge occurs during the transferring of charge." Merrill fails to anticipate claim 55 because Merrill recites that the signal representing the output of the photodiode during the integration period is then stored across the capacitor that is grounded. The other (non-grounded) capacitor, one end of which is floating, stores the signal corresponding to the photodiode output for the previous integration interval. Col. 9, lines 21-26. A first node in Merrill cannot be read out while a second node is storing. Therefore, Merrill fails to anticipate claim 55.

Claims 56 and 57 depend from claim 55 and are in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 6-9, 21-27, 31, 33-36 and 48-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bailey in view of Merrill.

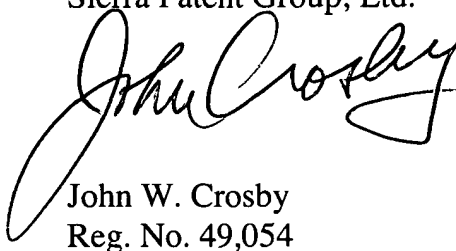
Neither Merrill nor Beiley, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest amended claim 1. Claims 4, 6-9, and 21-27 depend from claim 1 and are also in condition for allowance.

Claims 31, 33-36 and 48-54 depend from claim 28 and are in condition for allowance.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendment, as Applicant has placed all the claims in condition for allowance, allow all the claims, and direct the application to issue.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and an early allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.



John W. Crosby
Reg. No. 49,054

Dated: March 28, 2003

Sierra Patent Group, Ltd.
PO Box 6149
Stateline, NV 89449
(775) 586-9500